

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00150 160919Z

13-S

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SY-04 COME-00 SS-15 SCCT-01 /045 W

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R 160858Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2383

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 150

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST NEWSTOUR FOR BUSINESS LEADERS

REF: STATE 07565

1. TOOK OCCASION JANUARY 15 CALL ON SENIOR SYRIAN SECURITY OFFICER TO DRAW HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION TO JAN 21-22 VISIT TO DAMASCUS BY TIME NEWSTOUR GROUP. RECALLED THERE HAD BEEN BOMB DETONATED IN DAMASCUS JUST PRIOR SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SECOND OCTOBER VISIT AS WELL AS ONE DURING SECRETARY BUTZ'S NOVEMBER VISIT. URGED THAT SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES BE TAKEN ON OCCASION VISIT OF THIS LARGE GROUP DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS WHOSE PRESENCE MIGHT SERVE AS RED FLAG TO ELEMENTS CRITICAL OF SYRIAN-US RAPPROCHEMENT.

2. SECURITY OFFICER TOOK NOTE OF DATE AND IN REPLY ASSURED ME PROTECTION OF GROUP'S AIRCRAFT WAS ASSURED UNDER STANDARD TIGHT AIRPORT SECURITY MEASURES. HE FORESAW NO THREAT TO MEMBERS OF GROUP AND PROMISED ENSURE SYRIAN SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT AWARE OF NECESSITY TAKE ALL PRECAUTIONS.

3. COMMENT: HAD EARLIER BRIEFED TIME CORRESPONDENT STEWART ON SECURITY SITUATION. FORESEE NO PROBLEMS. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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